

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 35-41, 44-55 and 60-77. Claims 43 and 56-59 were cancelled and claims 74-77 were added. Claims 35, 36, 40, 41 and 60 were amended. New claim 74 finds support at least on page 39, lines 2-5 of the application. New claim 75 finds support at least on page 40 and new claim 76 finds support at least on page 38, lines 14-19. New claim 77 includes subject matter removed from claim 35. New claim 78 finds support at least in Figs. 47A, 47B, 47E, 49, 53 and 69B. New claim 79 finds support at least on page 162, line 10. New claim 80 finds support at least on page 155, line 18, page 156, lines 5-6 and page 160, line 2.

Restriction

The Examiner stated that the newly submitted claims are directed at an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed.

In response, independent claims 35 and 60 were amended to include the limitation stated by the Examiner as qualifying the already examined claims. Claims 56-59 were cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to file these claims in a subsequent divisional application.

102 and 103 rejections

Claims 24-27 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Vale (US patent 6,359,572).

Claims 29 and 33-34 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vale (US patent 6,359,572).

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vale (US patent 6,359,572) in view of Pratley et al. (US patent 6,356,866).

Independent claims 35 and 60

Claim 35 requires “wherein the input unit comprises a plurality of keys arranged in two groups, the keys of each group arranged in a respective single column”. As clearly seen in the figures of Vale, the keys of each group, configured for use with a different hand of the user, are not arranged in a single column.

Claim 60 requires “wherein the plurality of keys associated with all the letters of an alphabet of a language are arranged in two groups each on an opposite end of the device, the groups being separated at least partially by a section not containing keys”.

This is not taught or suggested by Vale. As shown in Vale, the keys carrying letters are positioned next to each other. It is further noted that even if separation of keys can be demonstrated in the art for a specific system, this does not imply that it would be obvious to separate the letter keys in a system having a word predictive system, as required by claim 35 or in a system of a limited number of keys as required by claim 60.

Dependent claims

The dependent claims are allowable at least by the virtue of their parent claims. Nonetheless, at least some of the dependent claims add further patentability over claim 35.

Claim 44, for example, requires that the columns are distanced from each other by a distance substantially greater than the widths of the keys. Claim 45 requires that the columns are located on opposite sides of a screen of the system. Neither of these possibilities is taught or suggested by the art. As shown in Vale, the keys carrying letters are positioned next to each other.

Claim 77, for example, requires four first input signals associated with all the letters of the alphabet. As discussed in length in applicant's response from July 2009, this is not taught or suggested by the art.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the above amendments and arguments the claims are allowable. Allowance of the application is respectfully awaited.

If, however, the Examiner does not see fit to allow the claims, Applicants respectfully request, following the provisions of MPEP 713.01, that the Examiner notify Applicant's representative after he has considered the effect of Applicant's current response so that a telephone interview between the Examiner and Applicant's representative can be arranged before a further action is issued. Applicant is of the opinion that such a telephone interview can expedite the case to final action. The undersigned can be reached at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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